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Environment and sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/56/561, para. 2). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 22nd and 38th meetings, on 5 November and 10 December 2001. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/56/SR.22 and 38).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/56/L.8 and A/C.2/56/L.57

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 5 November, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/56/L.8), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000 on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/56/561 and Add.1-8.

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"*Recalling also* resolution 14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in November 1997,

"*Reaffirming* that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development was adopted and preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21, which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 aims at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

"*Recalling* resolution 19 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirtieth session in November 1999, concerning the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005, which constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (to be revised in the light of the outcome of the thirty-first session),

"*Reiterating* that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy and the wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

"*Acknowledging* that the General Assembly continues to play an important role in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Acknowledging also* that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussions on new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session in New York in April 2001 that Governments develop energy services, particularly in remote and rural areas and small island developing States, through, inter alia, where appropriate, the development of renewable energy sources,

"*Welcoming also* the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development that Governments, inter alia, remove barriers to the implementation of policies for renewable energy development in remote and rural areas and small island developing States and promote rural community participation,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the continued efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

"*Calling* for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 will require the active involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant bodies within the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, and welcomes in particular the attempt therein to analyse and discuss the obstacles and constraints impeding the promotion of new and renewable source of energy and options for action to overcome them;

"2. *Notes with appreciation* the role that the World Solar Commission continues to play in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects and renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

"3. *Notes* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

"4. *Urges* national Governments and relevant stakeholders to make more use of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as one of the vehicles to boost the development and utilization of solar energy technologies;

"5. *Invites* the international community to support, as appropriate, including by providing financial resources, the efforts of developing countries to move towards sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption;

"6. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

"7. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"8. *Also reiterates its call upon* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

"9. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of sustainable energy development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and manpower resources for accelerating research efforts;

"10. *Recognizes* that the wider use of available renewable energy technologies requires the diffusion of available technologies on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

"11. *Notes with appreciation* the lead role that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization continues to play in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in particular its efforts, in association with multilateral partners and national specialized institutions, to enhance bilateral and regional cooperation through the co-organization of regional and subregional business and investment forums;

"12. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the contribution of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development, and encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in this context, to mobilize resources, both human and financial, as mandated, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme and make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

"13. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in the different regions and to strengthen the implementation of all its chapters;

"14. *Encourages* the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Energy to continue its efforts to ensure that the work of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into the mainstream of efforts of the United Nations system to achieve the objectives of sustainable development and to coordinate the contributions of all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to the ten-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 2002;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the effective implementation of, and mobilization of resources for, the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005'."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dharmansjah Djumala (Indonesia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/56/L.57), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.8.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.57 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000 on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Recalling also resolution 14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-ninth session in November 1997,[1]

Reaffirming that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[2] was adopted and preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005[3] approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21,[4] which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is aimed at encompassing all forms of new and renewable energy, including solar, thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms,

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[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. I: *Resolutions*.

[2] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[3] Ibid., annex, sect. VD.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

3. *Notes* that although significant financial support has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, more action still needs to be taken in this regard;

4. *Encourages* national Governments and relevant stakeholders to make more use of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as one of the vehicles to boost the development and utilization of solar energy technologies and all forms of new and renewable energy, including biomass, wind, mini-hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal;

5. *Invites* the international community to support, as appropriate, by, inter alia, providing financial resources, the efforts of developing countries to move towards sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption;

6. *Recognizes* that rural energy services, including their financing, should be designed to maximize local ownership, as appropriate;

7. *Reiterates its call upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and to enhance the effectiveness, and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation, of national and regional high priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

9. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of all stakeholders, including Governments and the private sector, to deploy financial and manpower resources for accelerating research efforts;

10. *Recognizes* that the wider use of available renewable energy technologies requires the diffusion of available technologies on a global scale, including through North-South and South-South cooperation;

11. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the contribution of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development[5] and, in this context, encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mobilize resources, both human and financial, as mandated, to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme and to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

12. *Invites* the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make effective the implementation of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in the various regions and to strengthen the implementation of its African chapter;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the concrete action being taken for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the effective implementation of and the mobilization of resources for the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005".